

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown in the following list:

1. (Currently amended) A method for authenticating objects comprising:

providing at least one object having a print region with printed material contained thereon comprising a layer of non-visible indicia, wherein the layer of non-visible indicia comprises a substance that emits at least one wavelength of light outside a visible range of an electromagnetic spectrum when stimulated with electromagnetic radiation;

creating an optical image of the layer of non-visible indicia with an imaging device such that the layer of non-visible indicia can be perceived by a human eye viewing the optical image;

recording the optical image of the object including the layer of non-visible indicia; attaching identification information pertaining to the object to the recorded optical image; and

comparing the optical image of the layer of non-visible indicia to expected authentication indicia to verify the authenticity of the object,

wherein the printed material further comprises an overlay layer printed over and obscuring the layer of non-visible indicia and wherein the overlay layer does not emit light having a wavelength outside of the visible range of the electro-magnetic spectrum, the overlay layer being an encoded image printed with a frequency of a predetermined number of lines per inch whereby an authentication image is revealed when the encoded image is viewed through a lenticular lens having a frequency that matches that of the encoded image.

2-4 (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the layer of non-visible indicia is an encoded image.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the encoded image is printed with a frequency of a predetermined number of lines per inch wherein an authentication image is revealed when the encoded image of the printed image is viewed through a lenticular lens having a frequency that matches that of the encoded image.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting the recorded optical image and the attached identification information to a facility remote from the imaging device that recorded the optical image.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the image is recorded at a distance from the object greater than about 4 feet.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the layer of non-visible indicia is printed with a material that emits infrared light when stimulated with electro-magnetic radiation and wherein the device for recording the optical image is capable of receiving infrared light.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the stimulating electro-magnetic radiation is visible light.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the layer of non-visible indicia is printed with a material that emits ultraviolet light when stimulated with electro-magnetic radiation and wherein the device for recording the optical image is capable of receiving ultraviolet light.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the stimulating electro-magnetic radiation is visible light.
13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the layer of non-visible indicia contains carbon black.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the overlay layer is printed using an organic black ink.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the layer of non-visible indicia contains phosphorous.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the imaging device for recording the optical image of the object includes a lens having a variable focal length.

17-21 (Canceled)

22. (New) A method for authenticating objects comprising:

providing at least one object having a print region with printed material contained thereon comprising a layer of non-visible indicia, wherein the layer of non-visible indicia comprises a substance that emits at least one wavelength of light outside a visible range of an electromagnetic spectrum when stimulated with electromagnetic radiation;

creating an optical image of the layer of non-visible indicia with an imaging device such that the layer of non-visible indicia can be perceived by a human eye viewing the optical image;

recording the optical image of the object including the layer of non-visible indicia; attaching identification information pertaining to the object to the recorded optical image; and

comparing the optical image of the layer of non-visible indicia to expected authentication indicia to verify the authenticity of the object,

wherein the layer of non-visible indicia is an encoded image printed with a frequency of a predetermined number of lines per inch wherein an authentication image is revealed when the encoded image of the printed image is viewed through a lenticular lens having a frequency that matches that of the encoded image.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the printed material further comprises an overlay layer printed over and obscuring the layer of non-visible indicia and wherein the overlay layer does not emit light having a wavelength outside of the visible range of the electro-magnetic spectrum.
24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the overlay layer is an encoded image.
25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the encoded image is printed with a frequency of a predetermined number of lines per inch wherein an authentication image is revealed when the encoded image of the overlay layer is viewed through a lenticular lens having a frequency that matches that of the encoded image.
26. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the overlay layer is printed using an organic black ink.
27. (New) The method of claim 22 further comprising transmitting the recorded optical image and the attached identification information to a facility remote from the imaging device that recorded the optical image.
28. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the image is recorded at a distance from the object greater than about 4 feet.
29. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the layer of non-visible indicia is printed with a material that emits infrared light when stimulated with electro-magnetic radiation and wherein the device for recording the optical image is capable of receiving infrared light.
30. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the stimulating electro-magnetic radiation is visible light.

31. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the layer of non-visible indicia contains carbon black.

32. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the layer of non-visible indicia contains phosphorous.

33. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the layer of non-visible indicia is printed with a material that emits ultraviolet light when stimulated with electro-magnetic radiation and wherein the device for recording the optical image is capable of receiving ultraviolet light.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the stimulating electro-magnetic radiation is visible light.

35. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the imaging device for recording the optical image of the object includes a lens having a variable focal length.